

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2002 LB 1085, 1309

to Senator Maxwell.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Senator Bourne, Mr. President. This is a tough one for me. I was a no vote on LB 1085 and as I stand here right now I still consider myself a no vote, which initially leads me to the conclusion that I start off as a no vote on this proposal because, well, you can't vote for this proposal unless you're willing to vote for the taxes that are going to be necessary to pay for it. If I vote yes on this proposal it's because what I'm starting to hear now is there may be other options available on the revenue side. I'm not convinced that LB 1085 is going to survive the Governor's veto, that we're going to override it, which then would leave us with everything we're proposing here and no way to pay for it, but I am hearing that there are other possibilities. Other bills are being prepared as fall back positions and perhaps that's enough to bring me around to a yes vote here, realizing the risk is if there isn't some way to pay for it then we're back here in a special session. The reason I'm willing to consider all this is I don't want to just be an automatic no, red vote, on everything. I'd like to find a solution, and there's a lot in this override proposal before us right now for me to love. The...a couple of people have mentioned the Ford birth site, an historical preservation operation that goes on there. That's in my district. That Lied Main Street Program, people often think in terms of small rural towns for that. My folks in the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association are hoping to benefit from that Lied Main Street Program. There's been a lot of comment about the dispute resolution service. It's an excellent program. One of those media..mediation centers is in my district. And then when you look at the Medicaid reimbursement provisions, I've got Clarkson Hospital, University Hospital, Saint Joseph's. Saint Joseph, in particular, serves a lot of patients who can't pay for their own healthcare. They need these Medicaid reimbursement payments as...as we would override them here. Not only do I have the Med Center; I have UNO in my district as well. So obviously the Med Center and UNO...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.